



**Price of a barrel
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INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

WINTER STORM



Specialist Peter Mazza works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, March 2, 2009. Investors' despair about financial companies and the recession has brought the Dow Jones industrial average to another unwanted milestone: its first drop below 7,000 in more than 11 years.

See **BUSINESS NEWS**

SPORTS NEWS

ON DECK



In this Sept. 18, 2008 file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez warms up on deck for a first inning at-bat against the Pittsburgh Pirates in a baseball game in Pittsburgh. Ramirez reportedly rejected their second offer from the Dodgers, which would have made him baseball's second-highest paid player behind New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, in hopes of snagging a longer deal.

See **Sports Today**

Caterpillar opens location on Aruba



Prime Minister Oduber cuts the ribbon



ORANJESTAD – On Friday afternoon, Prime Minister of Aruba Nelson Oduber personally held the honor of officially opening the AIS company that represents Caterpillar on Aruba.

Read Page 3

Mark Hollanders is Manager of the Year for the Radisson



PALM BEACH – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa paid homage to its top achievers from among its managers on Friday, at a special dinner party hosted at Texas De Brazil and attended by the resort's executive committee.

Continued on Page 4



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Step-It-Up Zumba Kids at Renaissance marketplace was Amazing



ORANJESTAD - Saturday morning at Renaissance Marketplace, Step-It-Up Zumba Fitness and More, did a special class for our kids. Many were the parents that made the effort to bring their kids at Renaissance Marketplace, for them to dance and have fun doing Zumba especially designed for kids. The participants were guided by Dwayne Wever, Naziha Adames and Mary Hessels who are Certified Zumba Instructors who take Zumba seriously and have composed a workout that caters specifically to our children. After an hour of fun



doing Zumba, the kids could purchase a healthy kids meal at Subway at 10% discount. By doing this they got to exercise and eat healthy all in one day, the way it should be. □



Caterpillar opens location on Aruba



officially opening the AIS company that represents Caterpillar on Aruba. Millions of US dollars were invested into this new Aruba location. Prime Minister Oduber is pleased with this investment into our island and it shows the faith that prestigious companies such as Caterpillar have confidence in the island of Aruba and our island's economic stability. □



ORANJESTAD – On Friday afternoon, Prime Minister of Aruba Nelson Oduber personally held the honor of



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Mark Hollanders is Manager of the Year for the Radisson



Continued from Front Page

The short ceremony was emceed by General Manager Gary Jutz and distinguished sous chef Mark Hollanders as Manager of the Year. Mark was lauded for his "Yes, I can" attitude and for his tireless and consistent performance within the Food & Beverage department, in 2008.

Two more stars of the food & beverage department were also in attendance, Ronni Maduro, restaurant manager at the Sunset Grille, and Harold Maduro, better known as Rudy, Restaurant Manager who won top honors in 2008, as Managers of the Quarter, also Martinus Middeldorp, Manager on Duty, who earned one of the quarterly award in 2008.

Pictured here the engraved



rotary cup, going to Mark Hollanders for putting his best foot forward in 2008. Mark

also earned a fantastic all-expenses paid vacation, and a standing ovation. □



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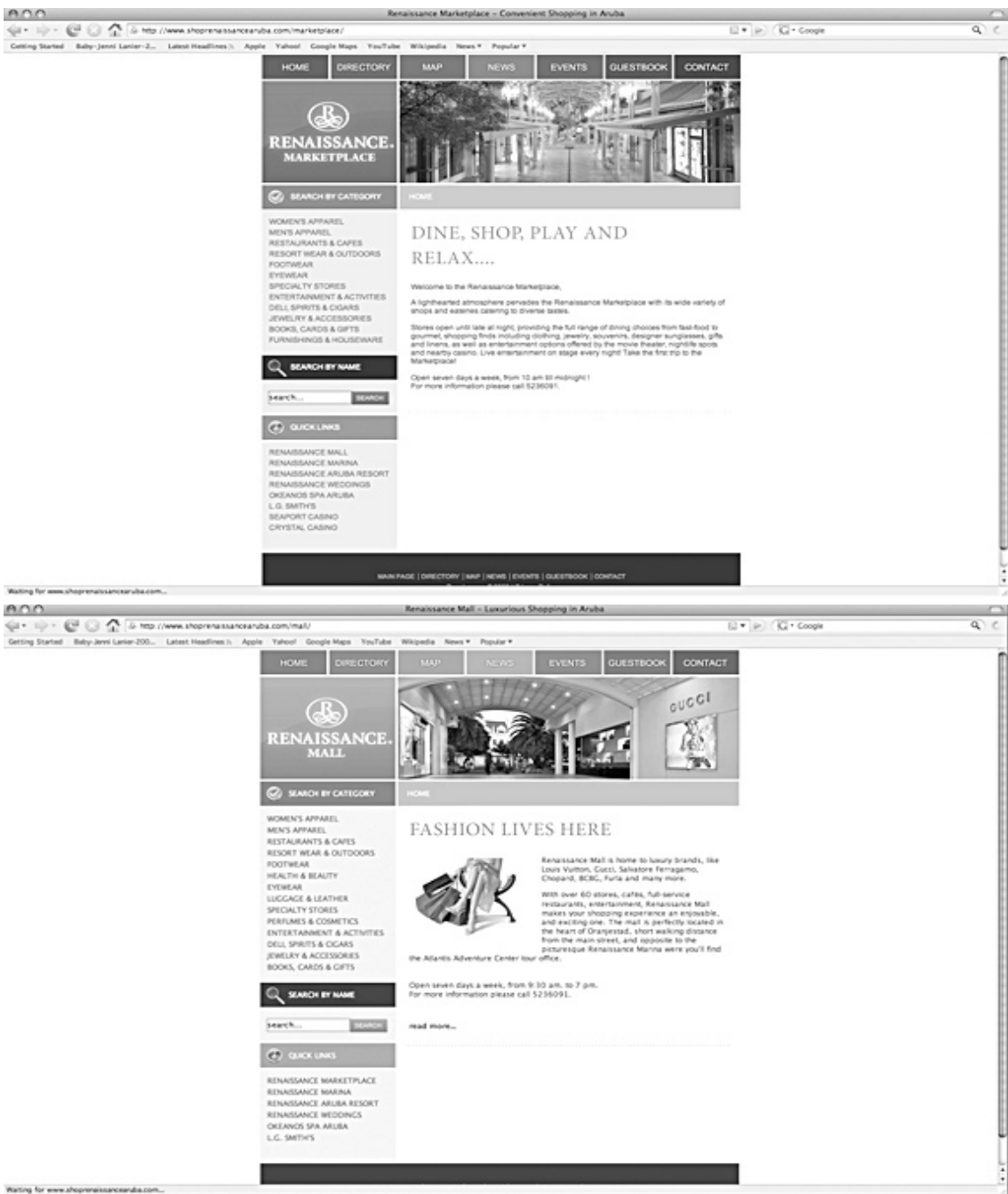
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ORANJESTAD - Renaissance Mall & Marketplace is very happy to launch their brand new website. During the past 5 months intensive work has been performed to put all of our stores and clients on the website. It goes without saying that all of our stores cooperated fully, by sending their store info and history so as to fully update the website with all the stores in Renaissance Mall & Marketplace. This website was designed to provide our viewers with a wide array of possibilities, including online shopping.

As soon as you log on to the website, all the stores are available to be browsed, viewed and all their collections and store info is also online. It's imperative to periodically log on to the website so you can be fully informed at all times of the specials at the stores and the interesting menus at our restaurants. This system allows all of our stores and restaurants to continuously update and keep their web-info fresh and up to date.

In the news and events section you can find all the Mall information and also, upcoming events at the Renaissance Mall & Marketplace. Don't hesitate, log on right now on www.shoprenaissance.com and participate in our ongoing campaign to win Afl. 1000, - in shopping credit at the Renaissance Mall or Marketplace. □

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Compared to the previous seven years

The number of registered newborn babies of teenage mothers on the island was down by about 50 per cent last year

There was some good news on the social front coming from Curaçao at the end of last week: The number of registered newborn babies of teenage mothers on the island was down by about 50 per cent last year, compared to the previous seven years.

Mind you, that does not necessarily mean teenage pregnancy as such is down by the same percentage, because there is no reliable information on the number of abortions

and babies who may not have been registered for whatever reason. Nevertheless, it gives an indication that the island is making headway with what can be considered a serious problem: very young mothers having to raise children – many times without the father – when they are hardly old enough and sufficiently able to take care of themselves.

The consequence more often than not is that the children in question don't get enough of

the attention and support they need to develop in an optimal manner, because their mothers have a hard time making ends meet and in some cases are simply too young to be able to deal adequately with all facets of parenthood.

So, in general, the fewer babies are born from teenage mothers, the better. Some advance obviously is being made in this area in Curaçao and, while there is a growing youth movement against pre-

marital sex, the main reason is believed to be information.

By becoming more open with teenage schoolchildren about sex and the need to protect themselves from both unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including the deadly AIDS, they are learning at a younger age how to have safe sex. Some might not agree, because talking about it might encourage youngsters to actually experiment with sex, but the reality is that the subject is always prevalent in the media and that children will be confronted with it at one point or another. The question then becomes: to what extent are they prepared for that moment?

Especially for teenage girls, knowledge about contraceptives and their use becomes crucial, because an unwanted child at that age can have a devastating impact on the future of such a young person without her possibly fully realising that until it's too late. Educators, but also parents need to realise that shunning touchy subjects is not a solution in the long run, because ignorance when it comes to having sex and protecting oneself can have far-reaching consequences, including a lifelong often-stifling responsibility and even a fatal disease. In this case "silence is silver, speech is gold." □



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F A V I

To guarantee safety on the platform and runway

AAA buys a new Sweeper Truck

ORANJESTAD – Recently the director of Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) Mr. Peter Steinmetz inaugurated the new Sweeper Truck which was bought from the BEAM Company from Denmark.

After a workgroup was assigned to evaluate the purchase of a new truck to replace the current one, the work group investigated and afterwards advised AAA's Management to purchase this truck which has dual functions.

The main reason why AAA decided to replace the current truck is that the current truck doesn't have the option of taking away the accumulation of rubber on our runway.

The new Sweeper Truck works on the platform as well as on the runway. It sucks every "Foreign Object Debris" (FOD's) which are on the mentioned areas. A small stone, a screw or nail are examples of what can be sucked by the engine of an airplane which can have fatal consequences. This truck is of high importance to guarantee that no FOD's are located on areas that can endanger aviation on our territory.

The second function is that it takes away the accumulation of rubber (from the tires of the airplanes) that are left behind on the runway with the landing of each airplane. This causes that the area where the rubber is left behind becomes slippery and therefore delays the plane's ability to reduce its speed.

With the purchase of this truck, the airport reinforces its high standard of quality of safety on the platform and runway. This is part of AAA's vision to guarantee safety to all the airlines that operate at the airport. In the Caribbean, our airport is

one of the little amounts of airports that have invested in such a sophisticated truck to guarantee a high level of safety.

The photos illustrate the moments when Mr. Heine

Kristensen of the company BEAM from Denmark is explaining the works of the truck and also when Mr. Heine Kristensen officially handed the key over to the airport's director. □



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Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere Sunset & Dinner at Matthew's tonight



Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operated Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which

will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



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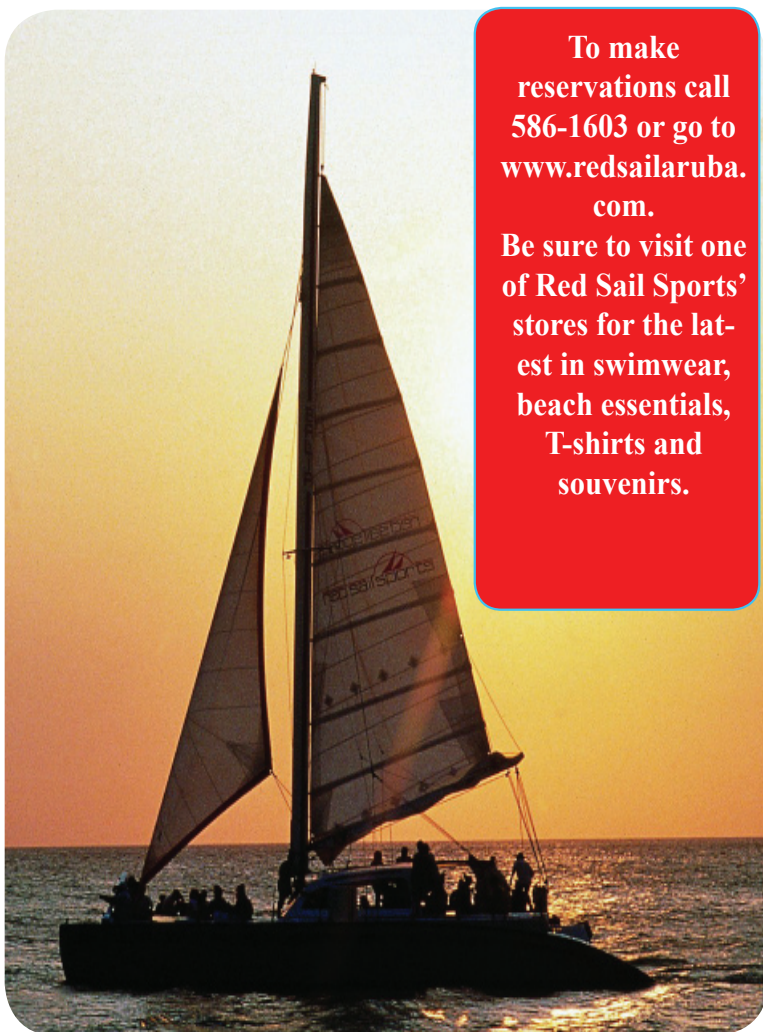


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PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The

inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which

runs along the complete wall. The menu promises to be a true seafood lovers dream. Lobsters, fresh fish fillets, shrimps, Moby Dick's has everything on the menu. There is of course a land lubbers section for those who are so disposed. The wine list is impressive to say the least, and the cocktails are definitely worth a taste.

Moby Dick's is open for lunch as well. The chef has made a well rounded, extensive menu for you to choose from. You will find what you want, whatever your craving may be at that time. The staff is amongst the friendliest on the island, ever so attentive to your every whim. So long story short, for unbelievable seafood in unique surroundings, go to Moby Dick's. You'll have a whale of a time!



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Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



PALM BEACH – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains. "We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs. "The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banter, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine." Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred," the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



popular Soba Noodles. The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Boland explains. Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □

The Coconut Trading Co., is Stocked with Gorgeous Gifts



Palm Beach -- The Coconut Trading Company displays gifts personally selected by owner Jodi Tobman-Hagedoorn, a Boston native and longtime Aruba



resident. Discover extraordinary treasures handcrafted by skilled artisans and colorfully displayed in a beach house ambiance in the lobby of the Marriott Ocean Club. Every corner of the store attracts the eye with a dazzling assortment of gifts and home accents that command attention; strikingly designed photo frames, candle holders and snuffers, serving pieces to dress every picnic table and dazzling glass accents: a virtual potpourri of tropical and distinctive gifts to grace any home.

The store also stocks a fine selection of creative sterling jewelry, handcrafted with precious gems, sea glass, turquoise and fresh water pearls, which can be found artfully arranged, beckoning to be worn. Find extraordinary gifts for all of your family members and



friends, there's something for everyone on your list, not to forget yourself! Popular with repeat visitors and locals alike, The Coconut Trading Co. has become the premier stop for the perfect gift, with great prices and convenient nighttime shopping hours. Shipping is

available, with a selection of larger pieces offered with a drop ship program at a nominal fee. The Coconut Trading Co., located in the Marriott Ocean Club lobby. Open daily from 9 am to 9 pm, Sundays until 7 pm. Email: orders@salama-nderholdings.com □



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March 5-8, 2009

The 29th Annual St. Maarten Heineken Regatta

St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles - The legendary Wailers, who are the greatest exponents of reggae music in the world, are now confirmed to headline the 29th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta on Sunday, March 8, 2009 as part of the Serious Fun celebrations. The band, recognized worldwide as the only group still capable of delivering Bob Marley's message of peace, love and equality will be performing on Kim Sha Beach to close out the Caribbean's largest regatta.

The Wailers have brought reggae music to every corner of the globe, selling over 250 million albums and playing to an estimated 24 million people. The group is now led by bassist and musical director Aston "Family Man" Barrett, the group's sole surviving founder and driving musical force, who was well known as Bob Marley's right hand-man during the singer's lifetime.

The current Wailers - a group that's one of the last, great reggae institutions - refuses to live off past

glories; where "Family Man" represents tried and trusted roots authenticity, singer Elan Atias, injects fresh excitement into a show that continues to attract enthusiastic audiences from around the world.

"The Wailers are one of the legendary Caribbean bands that have helped define reggae music," says John Leone, Director of Heineken St Maarten. "They have brought reggae out of the Caribbean and onto the world music scene for all to enjoy. Although we certainly can never replace Bob Marley, Peter Tosh and others from the original band, the band still drives on to spread great music and great times all over the world. I feel the Wailer's music is just the message we all need to hear right now. Imagine your feet in the sand on a beautiful night, surrounded by people from all over the world together singing 'One Love'

and 'Don't worry... about a thing... 'Cause every little thing... is gonna be alright!' We are honored to have them perform here for the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, it will be a performance to remember, a whole day to be enjoyed, and a St. Maarten Heineken Regatta to never forget!"

"The Heineken St. Maarten Regatta is globally renowned for its commitment to Serious Fun by annually presenting the best in music to its international sailing competitors and the local audience" said Christine Hansen, President & CEO of Thirty-Three Productions, Inc. "We are thrilled to bring the legendary Wailers for the 29th Anniversary and to again deliver world class talent to Heineken and the people of St. Maarten for this year's Regatta."

Closing out the regatta will be a day of reggae music on Kim Sha Beach, The



organizers are calling the day "Reggae-gatta", a fun mix of Reggae and Regatta. The "Reggae-gatta" festivities on Sunday are planned for the whole family to enjoy with food, drinks and great music. The day's line-up will have the best of the local reggae bands Ras Bushman, Barbwire Band, Roots down below and the internationally renown home-grown heroes Orange Grove. Sunday activities will kick off at 12:00PM noon. The four-day event

concludes with The Wailers' performance later that night and promises to be an unforgettable experience. Other acts that have been announced for the regatta weekend, which starts on Thursday March 5 through Sunday March 8, are 3-Cylinder from Antigua, CaRiMi with Haitian roots and Kes the Band from Trinidad, along with St. Maarten's best local talent. Visit www.wailers.com or www.heinekenregatta.com for more information. □



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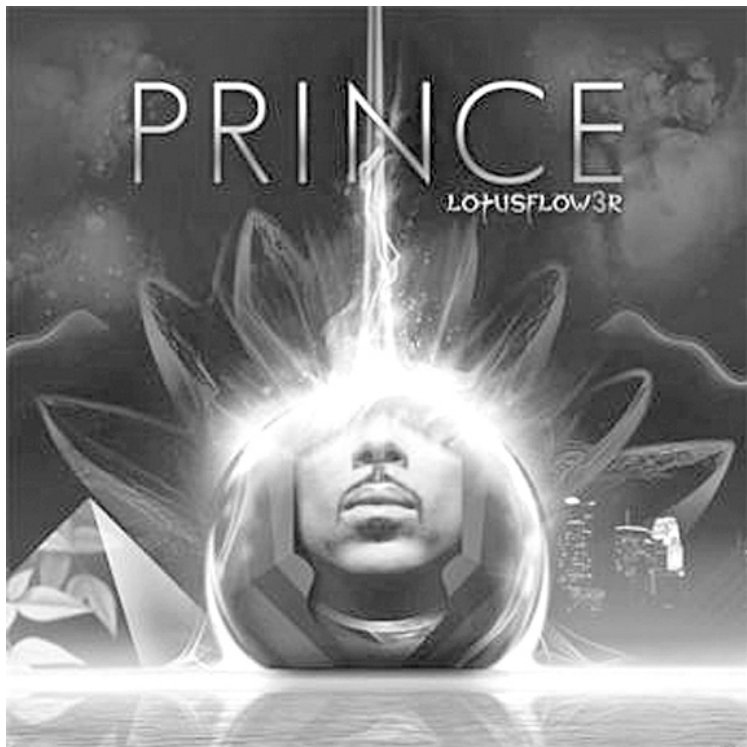
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Prince to release new CD set through Target



In this CD cover released by Target, Prince's new studio album 'LOtUSFLOW3R,' is shown. The album officially goes on sale nationally at Target and Target.com on March 29, 2009.

(AP Photo/Target)

Rihanna, Chris Brown Jet From Miami to Await Fate in L.A.

Gina Serpe

Los Angeles (E! Online) — Rihanna and Chris Brown have bid adios to Miami Beach.

After spending the past few days holed up in the city, the controversially reunited duo was spotted together at Miami International Airport late Sunday night.

The couple, doing their best to cover up their faces, were joined by several friends at the airport, and Brown arrived in the L.A. area this morning. It is not immediately known if Rihanna accompanied him.

Brown is tentatively scheduled to be arraigned in Los Angeles on Thursday for their Grammys eve confrontation, but the district attorney says that date may be postponed if detectives don't turn over the case soon enough. As of this morning, prosecutors tell E! News they have yet to see the evidence.

Since that incident occurred on Feb. 8, Rihanna spent solo time in Los Angeles, Mexico and her native Barbados, while Brown traveled to Las Vegas and his Virginia hometown before jetting to Miami.

Word broke late Friday that the couple was spending one-on-one time at Sean "Diddy" Combs' Star Island mansion.

Over the weekend, the "Disturbia" singer remained out of sight, while Brown, for the first time since his Feb. 8 arrest, appeared to be less than camera

shy, jet skiing in the waters around Diddy's compound. He had also been logging late-night sessions at Miami's Hit Factory studios, working on his new album, in the days leading up to their reunion.

Reps for both Rihanna and Chris Brown have so far refused to comment on the seeming reconciliation, though Rihanna's father made clear over the weekend that he supported his daughter, whatever direction her personal life may take. "I love my daughter with whatever road she takes," Ronald Fenty told Us Weekly. "I'm behind her



Josh Grossberg

Los Angeles (E! Online) — Who is the greenest of them all? How about 24?

Following through on a promise made two years ago, the Emmy-winning Fox series has become the first carbon-neutral production in TV history.

The network plans to launch a public-service campaign during tonight's two-hour

NEW YORK — Prince is coming to a Target near you. The superstar is releasing a three-disc CD set through the retailer at the end of this month. The set will include two new albums — "LOtUSFLOW3R" and "MPLSoUND" — as well as a third by his new artist, Bria Valente, for the price of \$11.98.

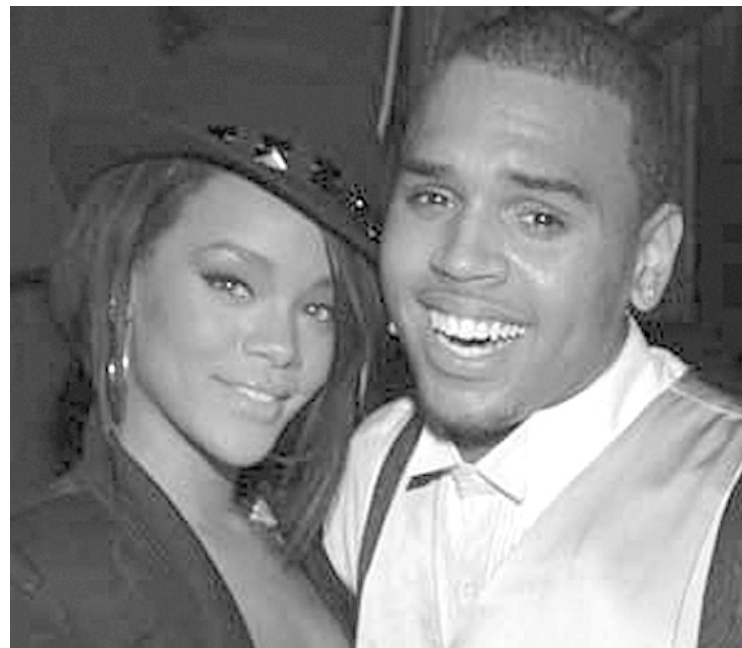
Prince is just the latest music legend to release new music exclusively through a major retailer. AC/DC and the Eagles were among the acts who sold millions of CDs through their partnership with Wal-Mart.

Prince has released his recent CDs through major labels, but they were one-album deals that gave

him the flexibility to go elsewhere when the project was done. Last fall, he released a coffee table book of photos titled "21 Nights" documenting his record-breaking, 21-night run at London's O2 Arena in 2007. The book also included a CD of live performances.

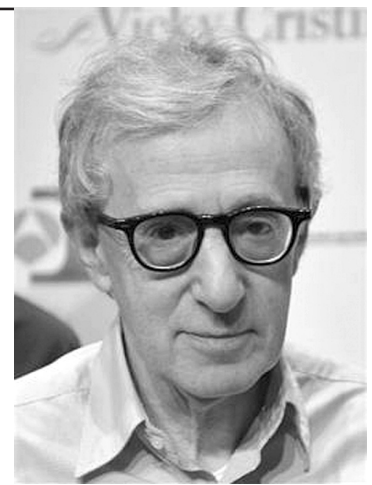
"Prince has long been renowned as one of the world's most original and iconic musical artists," said Mark Schindele, Target's senior vice president of merchandising. "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to share his most recent work with our Target guests."

The CD set will be on sale at Target and its Web site on March 29. □



win or lose. I will be supportive. If that's the road she wants to choose, I'm behind her. I hope

to see her soon. I talked to her after her birthday, and she told me she's OK." □



In this Sept. 20, 2008 file photo, U.S. film director Woody Allen appears at a news conference promoting his new film, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" in Barcelona, Spain.

(AP Photo/Manu Fernandez, file)

New Woody Allen film to open Tribeca Film Festival

NEW YORK — The Tribeca Film Festival will celebrate Woody Allen's return to making films in New York by showing his new movie on the festival's opening night on April 22.

"Whatever Works" is Allen's first film shot in his hometown since 2004. He has recently filmed overseas, most recently in Spain, where he made "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

"Whatever Works" is a comedy starring Larry David, Evan Rachel Wood, Ed Begley Jr. and Patricia Clarkson.

The Tribeca Film Festival, which was co-founded by Robert De Niro, will run through May 3. □

24's Jack Bauer Fights Bad Guys, Global Warming

special featuring series star Kiefer Sutherland singing the praises of 24's greener pastures and asking viewers to follow the show's lead to help combat global warming.

"This is a passion project for us at 24, and we're amazed by how much we were able to achieve this past season in terms of conserving energy and reducing carbon emissions," said show runner Howard Gordon. "But now the really important work begins, which is to inspire our audience to make changes in their

own lives." The season-seven experiment that began in the fall of 2007 has paid off tenfold, say producers. The show cut its carbon footprint by a staggering 43 percent, and in areas where it could not, producers bought carbon offsets. According to Fox, producers made on-set upgrades such as swapping out incandescent lighting with compact fluorescent lighting and turning off all electrical equipment when not in use. The production also used biodiesel to power generators

and production vehicles; used renewable power resources (wind, hydroelectric and solar) when purchasing electricity; incorporated fuel-efficient and low-emission hybrid vehicles into the production fleet, which saved 1,300 gallons of gas; and distributed all its scripts, schedules and other memos electronically.

The PSAs, which also feature cast members Cherry Jones, Carlos Bernard and Mary Lynn Rajskub, will run on TV and online. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Moffett resigning as Freddie Mac CEO



In this Sept. 25, 2008 file photo, Freddie Mac Chief Executive Officer David Moffett testifies before the House Financial Services Committee hearing on the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac takeover on Capitol Hill in Washington. Freddie Mac on Monday, March 2, 2009 said Moffett is quitting after less than six months on the job as the company continues to hemorrhage from mortgage losses and plans to ask the government for up to \$35 billion in additional aid.

(AP Photo/Kevin Wolf, File)

By ALAN ZIBEL,

AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON — The top executive of Freddie Mac is quitting after less than six months on the job as the company continues to hemorrhage from mortgage losses and plans to ask the government for up to \$35 billion in additional aid.

Freddie Mac said Monday that David Moffett will step down as chief executive and leave the company's board of directors by March 13. Moffett, 57, a former vice chairman of US Bancorp, has been CEO since September, when the government seized control of the mortgage finance company and its sibling Fannie Mae.

"It's never a positive sign when you see someone leave after six months," said Jim Vogel, a debt analyst with FTN Financial in Memphis, Tenn.

Freddie Mac said its board is working with the Federal Housing Finance Agency to appoint a successor to

Moffett, who indicated in his resignation letter that he wanted to return to the financial services sector.

But finding a new executive to lead the troubled company, which has had four top executives in six years, could be a challenge for government regulators.

The Treasury Department will have to sign off on the new hire and the salary. And any CEO will have to take a lot of marching orders from regulators.

"You're basically being told what to do," said Guy Cecala,

publisher of Inside Mortgage Finance, a trade publication in Bethesda, Md. "I'm not sure that there's any management being done."

Together, Fannie and Freddie own or guarantee almost 31 million home loans worth about \$5.5 trillion. That's more than half of all U.S. home mortgages.

Since the government takeover, "their mission has changed dramatically," said Bert Ely, an Alexandria, Va.-based banking industry consultant and a longtime critic of the two companies.

Dow drops below 7,000 for first time since 1997

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Investors' despair about financial companies and the recession has brought the Dow Jones industrial average to another unwanted milestone: its first drop below 7,000 in more than 11 years.

The market's slide Monday, which took the Dow down 300 points, was nowhere near the largest it has seen since last fall, but the tumble below 7,000 was nonetheless painful.

The credit crisis and recession have slashed more than half the average's value since it hit a record high over 14,000 in October 2007.

And now many investors fear the market could take a long time to regain the lost 7,000.

"As bad as things are, they can still get worse, and get a lot worse," said Bill Strazzullo, chief market strategist for Bell Curve Trading. Strazzullo said he believes there's a significant chance the S&P 500 and the Dow will fall back to their 1995 levels of 500 and 5,000, respectively.

The "game-changer," he said, will be the housing market and whether it can stabilize.

A recovery will also require signs of health among financial companies, but so far in 2009, it is clear that banks and insurance companies' losses are multiplying despite hundreds of billions of dollars in government help. The market fell Monday after insurer American International Group Inc. posted a staggering \$61.7 billion in quarterly losses and as the government agreed to inject more money into the company. AIG will get another \$30 billion in loans, on top of the \$150 billion the government has already invested.

And it's not just U.S. companies that have Wall Street frightened. HSBC PLC, Europe's largest bank by market value, said Monday it needs to raise \$17.7 billion. The company reported a 70 percent drop in 2008 earnings and said it would cut 6,100 jobs.

While the root of financial firms' problems lie with the bad bets they made on mortgages and mortgage-backed securities, now

"It's increasingly an arm of the federal government."

It's also unclear what the government ultimately plans to do with the two companies. Before leaving office in January, former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said the best option would be for the mortgage giants to be run like public utilities — privately owned but governed by a commission that would establish a targeted rate of profit. But Obama officials have yet to weigh in on how Fannie and Freddie should be structured in the future.

Monday's announcement comes just days after Fannie Mae said it needs \$15.2 billion in government assistance and that it lost nearly \$59 billion last year as the foreclosure crisis mushroomed.

Freddie Mac, based in McLean, Va., is expected to report its fourth quarter earnings early this month, and has already tapped almost \$14 billion in government aid. The Treasury Department last month doubled its lifeline for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to \$200 billion each. □



Trader Albert Young leans on a phone post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, March 2, 2009.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

the recession is exacerbating their problems as it also forces millions of job cuts.

"The economy definitely has deteriorated since November," said Sean Simko, head of fixed income management at SEI Investments. "It's just the fact that we haven't seen signs of improving or stabilizing, per se, which is adding to the morass of the market."

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow fell 299.64, or 4.24 percent, to 6,763.29. The Dow last closed below 7,000 on May 1, 1997 and hadn't finished at this level since April 25, 1997.

The Dow's descent has been swift. It took only 14 sessions for the average to go from above 8,000 to below 7,000. So far this year, the Dow is down 22.9 percent.

Broader stock indicators also slid. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 34.27, or 4.7 percent, to 700.82. The index briefly traded below the 700 mark in the final minutes of the session. S&P 500 index hadn't traded below 700 since Oct. 29, 1996. It hasn't closed below that level since the previous day, Oct. 28. The Nasdaq composite index fell 54.99, or 4 percent, to 1,322.85.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 21.22, or 5.5 percent, to 367.80.

About 16 stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a heavy 1.80 billion shares. □

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Obama can't leave Iraq in the lurch

By the Monitor's Editorial Board

To hasten reconciliation between Iraqis as well as between Americans, President Obama plans to speed up a US pullout from Iraq before the 2011 exit date agreed to by President Bush. If this helps heal the scars of a divisive war, Mr. Obama will have added victory to victory – a soothing of old frictions while sowing unity in both nations.

His speech on Friday, announcing a faster timetable for withdrawal of combat troops, also reflects his own evolution as a leader.

Gone is the rhetoric of the Illinois state legislator who referred to an American invasion of Iraq as a “dumb war” and who then later used that stance to beat a pro-war Hillary Clinton in the Democratic caucuses. Instead, a pragmatic commander in chief spoke of promoting “an Iraqi government that is just, representative, and accountable, and that provides neither support nor safe haven to terrorists.”

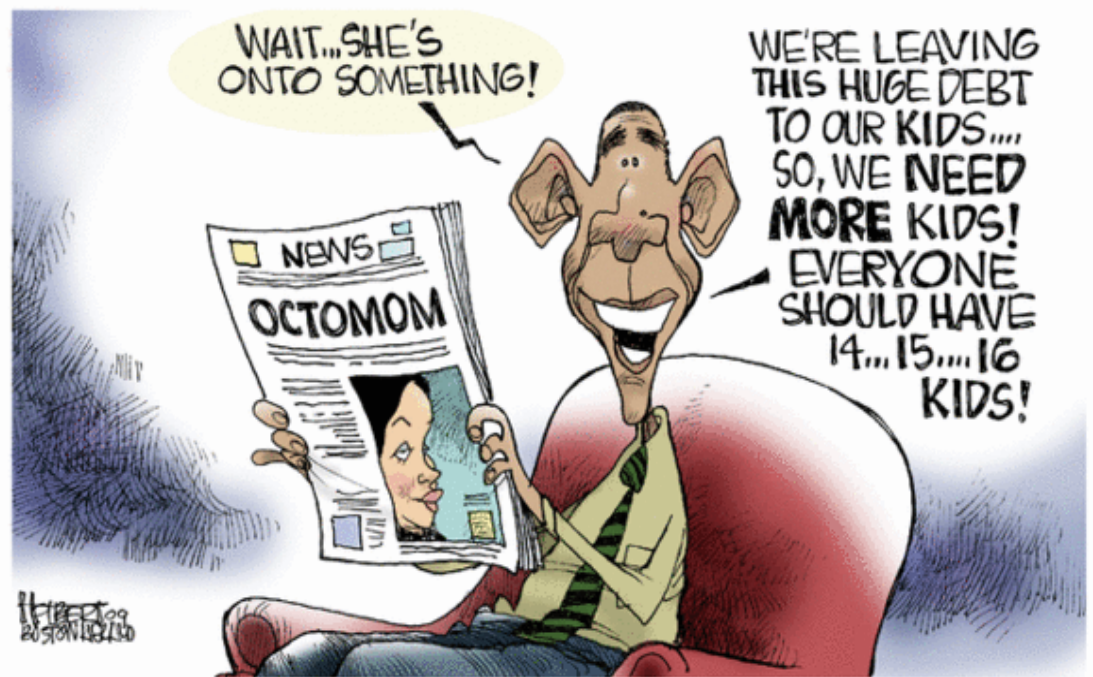
Obama also doesn't see Iraq as a failed state but a “great nation” that can be a peaceful, stable US partner. He praised the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, the creation of a sovereign government, and the US role in giving Iraqis an opportunity to “live a better life.”

A war that so divided Americans has now mainly become a peacekeeping operation for US troops, largely due to a change of tactics, including the 2007 “surge.” In January, more US soldiers died from mishaps than from enemy fire. And nearly 2 out of 3 Americans see events going well for the US in Iraq, according to one poll. That's up from 1 in 5 in 2007.

But all is not yet rosy enough that Obama can remain rigid about a final pullout. While he seems firm about ending “combat operations” and a withdrawal of most of the 140,000 troops by September 2010, that firmness may be calculated to put pressure on Iraqi leaders to finally settle two critical issues: control over the ethnically divided city of Kirkuk and passage of a law over control of oil reserves and wealth.

Despite a string of successful elections since 2003 – a key national vote comes in December – and a turnaround by most Sunnis to join the government, Iraq could explode over Kirkuk and oil.

Compromises are possible, such as a trade of oil rights for political control of Kirkuk, but either Obama or Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki must make it happen soon. □



STIMULUS PLAN 2

The Charade of Not Talking to Hamas

Robert Dreyfuss

The Nation -- Looming over Hillary Clinton's foray into the Middle East are two extremist movements that aren't likely to be persuaded to support Clinton's vision of a two-state solution. The first is Hamas, which runs Gaza, and the second is the Netanyahu-Lieberman bloc in Israel, which is preparing to take over the Israeli government.

In Egypt yesterday, Clinton reaffirmed America's pledge to give \$900 million in aid to the West Bank and Gaza. One-third of that will go to Gaza, and she made it clear that all of the aid will be funneled through the Palestinian Authority, not Hamas, so it won't end up in the “wrong hands”:

We will work with our Palestinian partners, President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad, to address critical humanitarian, budgetary, security, and infrastructure needs. We have worked with the Palestinian Authority to install safeguards that will ensure that our funding is only used where, and for whom, it is intended, and does not end up in the wrong hands.

She added that the United States will “vigorously pursue a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

In all, the conference of aid donors for Gaza is planning to assemble a \$3 billion package for Gaza, the equivalent of \$2,000 for each of the 1.5 million Gaza residents. Since most of the cash will be funneled through the PA, it's clear the Abbas and Fayyad will gain patronage points. But Israel still maintains its blockade of Gaza, preventing key items -- such as building materials, like cement -- from reaching rebuilding projects.

Egypt is mediating between Israel and Hamas

in search of a workable arrangement, but a deal will be hostage to the Netanyahu regime, which has pledged to destroy Hamas.

Egypt is also taking the lead in trying to reconcile Hamas, Fatah, and other elements of the Palestinian national movement. Were they to succeed, it would confront the Obama administration with a quandary: will Obama send hundreds of millions of dollars to the Palestinians if, indeed, those with the “wrong hands” are part of the equation? The Palestinian dialogue will start in earnest in Cairo on March 10, involving Hamas, Fatah, and several smaller factions, including left-leaning ones and Islamic Jihad. They've created five committees aimed at “forming a national unity government, reforming the Palestine Liberation Organization, rebuilding the security apparatus, preparing for presidential and legislative elections, and the committee of reconciliation.”

Theoretically, it ought to be easy to finesse the problem, diplomatically, for the United States.

So far, Washington has said it won't talk to Hamas unless the group halts violence and accepts Israel's right to exist. If Hamas does indeed reunite with Fatah in the PA, the United States can use that as an excuse to halt aid, or it can pretend to look the other way and continue the aid on the theory that the PA itself is engaged in two-state talks with Israel.

In fact, Israel is already talking to Hamas, through Egypt's mediation efforts, and if the Hamas-Fatah talks succeed -- with Egypt's help -- Hamas will be at the table there, too. Not talking to Hamas is quickly becoming a charade. □

At Papillon Restaurant in The Village

Henri Charrière would have had the time of his life



PALM BEACH - Henri Charrière, one of the world's most famous prisoners, would surely have had the time of his life at Papillon Restaurant in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort. Nicknamed Papillon because of the butterfly tattoo on his chest, the Frenchman was the first convict to escape from Devil's Island, something that nobody had ever done before. Charrière's thrilling, gripping autobiography has been the concept behind Papillon Restaurant. The décor, the decorations and especially the restrooms wink

at the thirteen terrible years Papillon spent in prison in French Guyana.

Papillon Restaurant's menu reflects the Frenchman's arduous journey to freedom: classic French dishes have been dusted with daring Caribbean flair and are a culinary journey for your taste buds. The spacious outside terrace is perfect for casual fine dining; the

iron bars, flecks of rust and stains on the walls make one very glad not to be in Papillon's shoes in the 1940's! Charrière would undoubtedly have loved 'his' place on Aruba: this is luxury living for anyone!

Papillon's opening hours are from 5 pm until midnight. The restaurant's daily specials will be explained by the staff. For reservations, please call 5865400.



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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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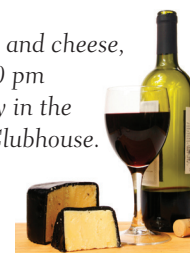
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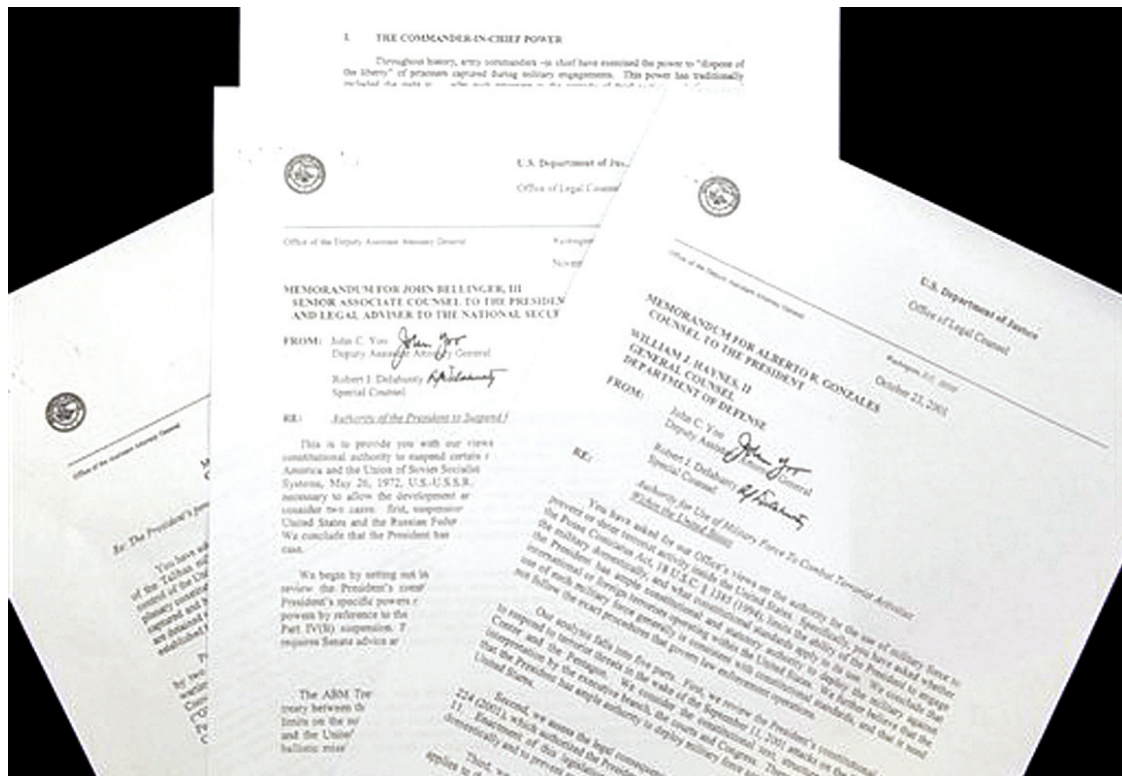
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On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Tuesday, March 3, 2009



Justice Department memos from 2001 are seen in Washington Monday, March 2, 2009. The Justice Department on Monday released a long-secret legal document from 2001 in which the Bush administration claimed the military could search and seize terror suspects in the United States without warrants.

Associated Press

Obama releases secret Bush anti-terror memos

By **DEVLIN BARRETT**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department released on Monday a long-secret legal document from 2001 in which the Bush administration claimed the military could search and seize terror suspects in the United States without warrants.

The legal memo was written about a month after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. It says constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure would not apply to terror suspects in the United States so long as the president or another high official had authorized the action.

Even after the Bush administration rescinded that legal analysis, the Justice Department refused to release its contents, which prompted a standoff with congressional Democrats.

The memo was among nine released Monday by the Obama administration.

Another memo showed that, within two weeks of Sept. 11, the administration was contemplating ways to use wiretaps without getting warrants.

The author of the search and seizure memo, John Yoo, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

In that memo, Yoo wrote that the president could treat terror suspects in the United States like an invading foreign army. For instance,

he said, the military would not have to get a warrant to storm a building to prevent terrorists from detonating a bomb.

Yoo also suggested that the government could put new restrictions on the press and speech, without spelling out what those might be.

“First Amendment speech and press rights may also be subordinated to the overriding need to wage war successfully,” Yoo wrote, adding later:

“The current campaign against terrorism may require even broader exercises of federal power domestically.”

While they were once important legal pillars of the U.S. fight against al-Qaida, all the memos were withdrawn in the final days of the Bush administration.

In one of his first official acts President Barack Obama also signed an order negating the memos’ claims until his administration could conduct a thorough review.

In a speech Monday, Obama’s attorney general, Eric Holder said that too often in the past decade the fight against terror has been put in opposition to “our tradition of civil liberties.” That “has done us more harm than good,” he declared. “I’ve often said that the test of a great nation is whether it will adhere to its core values not only when it is easy but when it is hard.” □

Ferocious storm dumps heavy snow on East Coast



A woman makes her way through blowing snow to the subway in Brooklyn, N.Y. Monday, March 2, 2009. An army of snowplows and salt trucks were out in force Monday as New Yorkers woke up to a late winter snowstorm that was expected to blanket the metro region with over a foot of snow.

Associated Press

By **SARA KUGLER**

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A ferocious storm packing freezing rain, heavy snow and furious wind gusts paralyzed most of the East Coast on Monday, sending dozens of cars careening into ditches, grounding hundreds of flights and closing school for millions of kids.

The devastating effects of the storm were seen up and down the coast. A crash caused a 15-mile traffic jam in North Carolina, forcing police and the Red Cross to go car-to-car to check on stranded drivers.

Continued on Page B3

Soldiers assassinate Guinea-Bissau president

By **ASSIMO BALDE**

Associated Press Writer

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau (AP)

— Soldiers assassinated the president of Guinea-Bissau in his palace Monday hours after a bomb blast killed his rival, but the military insisted no coup was taking place in the West African nation.

A military statement broadcast on state radio attributed President Joao Bernardo “Nino” Vieira’s death to an “isolated” group of unidentified soldiers whom the armed forces said they were now hunting down.

Continued on Page B6



In this May 18, 2006 file photo, Guinea Bissau’s President Joao Bernardo “Nino” Vieira talks to the media during a press conference at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels. Gunfire was heard for several hours around Guinea-Bissau’s presidential palace early Monday, March 2, 2009, hours after a bomb blast killed the fragile West African nation’s armed forces chief.

Associated Press



Former British resident Binyam Mohamed, back right, who has been held at Guantanamo Bay leaves a plane at Northolt military base in west London Monday Feb. 23, 2009. A former British resident who claims he was brutally tortured at a covert CIA site in Morocco has been freed from Guantanamo after nearly seven years in U.S. captivity — an ordeal that could come back to haunt the U.S. and British governments. Wearing a tan sweater, a white cap and carrying a bundle of documents, Binyam Mohamed landed at Northolt military base Monday — the first Guantanamo prisoner released since President Barack Obama took office.

Associated Press

CIA destroyed 92 interrogation tapes

By **DEVLIN BARRETT**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—The CIA destroyed almost 100 videotapes of terror suspect interrogations, far more than previously acknowledged, the Obama administration said Monday as it began disclosing details of post-Sept. 11 Bush-era actions.

The interrogations were a highly contentious issue during the administration of former President George W. Bush, with many Democrats and other critics saying that some methods used amounted to torture, which Bush and other officials rejected. A criminal prosecutor is wrapping up his investigation in the matter.

Monday's acknowledgment involved a civil lawsuit filed in New York by the American Civil Liberties Union, a civil rights advocacy group, seeking more details of the interrogation programs after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks against the United States.

"The CIA can now identify the number of videotapes that were destroyed," said the letter by Acting U.S. Attorney Lev Dassin. "Ninety-two videotapes were destroyed."

It is not clear what exactly was on the recordings. The government's letter cites interrogation videos, but the lawsuit against the Defense Department also seeks records related to treatment of detainees, any deaths of detainees and the CIA's sending of suspects overseas, known as "extraordinary

rendition."

At the White House, press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters he had not spoken to President Barack Obama about the report but called the news about the videotapes "sad" and said Obama was committed to ending torture while also protecting American values.

ACLU attorney Amrit Singh said the CIA should be held in contempt of court for holding back the information for so long.

"The large number of videotapes destroyed confirms that the agency engaged in a systematic attempt to hide evidence of its illegal interrogations and to evade the court's order," Singh said in a statement.

CIA spokesman George Little said the agency "has certainly cooperated with the Department of Justice investigation. If anyone thinks it's agency policy to impede the enforcement of American law, they simply don't know the facts."

The details of CIA interrogations, and the existence of tapes documenting those sessions, have become the subject of long fights in a number of different court cases. In the trial of Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui, prosecutors initially claimed no such recordings existed, then acknowledged after the trial was over that two videotapes and one audiotape had been made.

The letter, dated March 2 to Judge Alvin Hellerstein, says the CIA is now gathering more details for the lawsuit, including a list

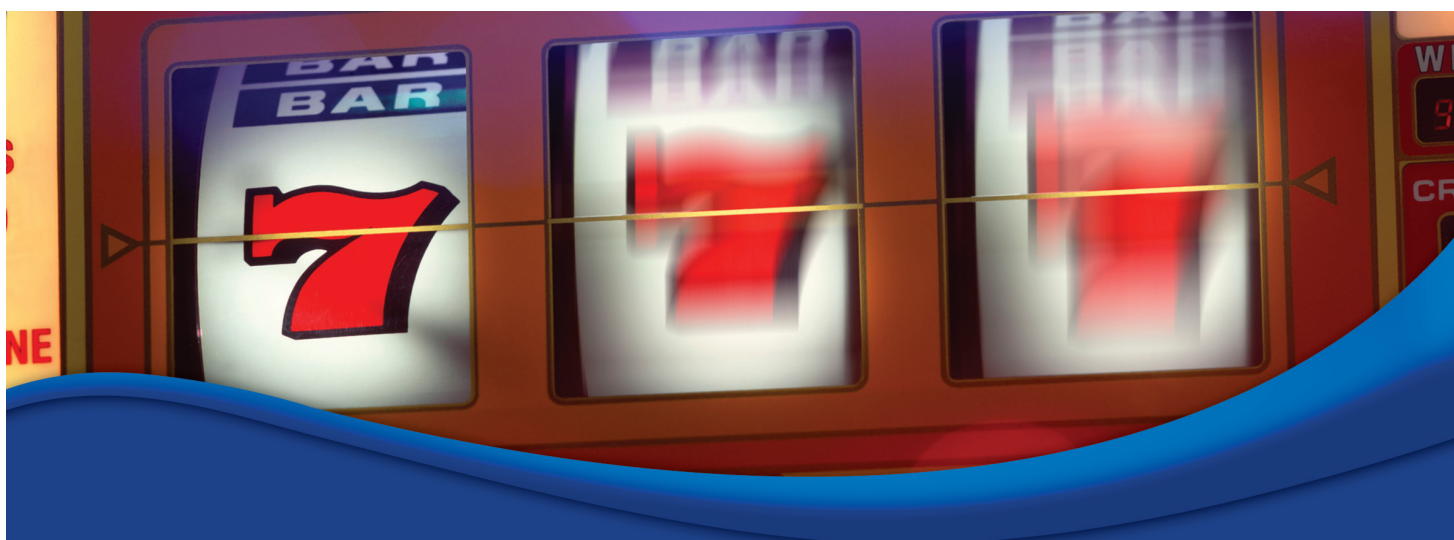
of the destroyed records, any secondary accounts that describe the destroyed contents, and the identities of those who may have viewed or possessed the recordings before they were destroyed.

But the lawyers also note that some of that information may be classified, such as the names of CIA personnel that viewed the tapes.

"The CIA intends to produce all of the information requested to the court and to produce as much information as possible on the public record to the plaintiffs," states the letter.

John Durham, a senior career prosecutor in Connecticut, was appointed to lead the criminal investigation out of Virginia.

He had asked that the requests for information in the civil lawsuit be put on hold until he had completed his criminal investigation. Durham asked that he be given until the end of February to wrap up his work, and has not asked for another extension. Durham's spokesman, Tom Carson, had no immediate comment. The criminal investigation into the CIA's videotapes included interrogations of al-Qaida lieutenant Abu Zubaydah and another top al-Qaida leader. They were destroyed, in part, to protect the identities of the government questioners at a time the Justice Department was debating whether the tactics used during the interrogations — which are believed to have included waterboarding — were illegal. □



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FEROCIOUS STORM
Continued from Page B1

The storm was blamed for 350 crashes in New Jersey, and a Maryland official counted about 50 cars in the ditch on one stretch of highway. By Monday, the storm had moved north into New England, and most areas in the storm's wake expected to see up to of snow. The weather contributed to four deaths on roads in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and on Long Island. The South was especially hard hit, dealing with record snowfalls, thick ice and hundreds of thousands of power outages in a region not accustomed to such vicious weather. In North Carolina, Raleigh

got more than 3 inches of snow; the March snowfall for the city has exceeded 3 inches only 11 times in the last 122 years. The Weather Service said parts of Tennessee received the biggest snowfall since 1968. Travelers were stranded everywhere, with most flights canceled at the three main airports in the New York area and at Boston's Logan International Airport. The Boston airport had to shut down for about 40 minutes to clear a runway. Philadelphia declared a Code Blue weather emergency, which gives officials the authority to bring homeless people into shelters because the weather poses a threat of serious harm or death.

Dozens of schools across North Carolina, South Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Maine gave children a snow day. Schools in Philadelphia, Boston and New York City did the same. It was the first time in more than five years that New York City called off classes for its 1.1 million public school students. Some New York parents complained that the city waited until 5:40 a.m. to call off classes, saying they didn't have enough notice. Mayor Michael Bloomberg brushed off the criticism and praised the city's storm response, which included dispatching 2,000 workers and 1,400 plows to work around the clock to clean



Robert Burck, a.k.a. the "Naked Cowboy," sings while standing on a small clear patch of concrete in the middle of Times Square Monday, March 2, 2009 in New York. A Nor'easter, which dumped up to 8 inches of snow in parts of the city, did not deter Burck from performing for a short while.

Associated Press

New York's 6,000 miles of streets. "It's like plowing from here to Los Angeles and back," Bloomberg said at a news conference, standing in front of an orange snow plow at a garage. Central Park recorded 7 inches of snow, and more than a foot was reported on parts of Long Island, where high winds caused 2-foot drifts on highways in the Hamptons.

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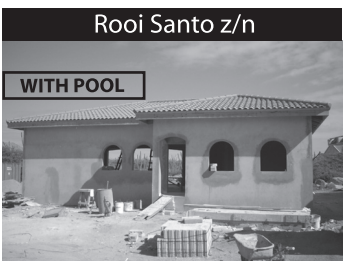
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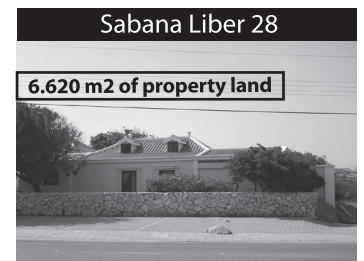
US\$ 650.000 US\$ 600.000



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Spacious property with swimming pool and 2 apartments, in North. Land size 813m², constructed area 297 m². Located near to Palm Beach and Tierra del Sol. **Lay out:** Spacious living room, dining room, kitchen with appliances, TV room, hallway, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, closets

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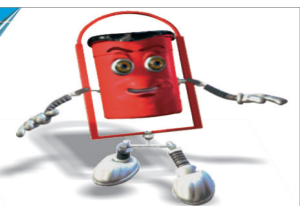
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THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

White House, Republicans avoid direct clash

By **JIM KUHNHENN**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans show no desire to demonize President Barack Obama, so they're condemning Democratic leaders instead. Democrats are finished with their favorite target, George W. Bush, so they're linking Republicans to a famous talk show host instead.

Call it deflection politics.

Listen to the number two Republican leader in the House of Representatives, Rep. Eric Cantor. "We want to work with this president," he said Sunday. "We want people to regain their confidence in Washington. And what people are looking for is results."

But what of the \$787 billion economic recovery legislation that not a single Republican in the House supported? That, Cantor said, was "Speaker (Nancy) Pelosi's stimulus bill." Now consider White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel. "It's our desire that the Republicans would work with us and try to be constructive, rather than adopt the philosophy of somebody like Rush Limbaugh, who is praying for failure," he said. Limbaugh is a conservative radio commentator, listened



House Minority Whip Eric Cantor of Virginia, left, and House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio listen to President Barack Obama's address to a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber of the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009.

Associated Press

to by millions and widely popular among the Republican Party's conservative base.

Six weeks into Obama's presidency, both sides are trying to divine the terms for public debate. Obama and Republican lawmakers clearly understand two things: The president is popular; raw partisanship is not.

The Republican goal is to separate Obama from his policies and go after congressional Democrats, who fare much more poorly in public approval.

Obama, meanwhile, recognizes that part of his appeal is his outreach to Republicans, even if it's not intended to bear immediate fruit. As a result, the White House and its allies won't be too critical of Republican political leaders. Limbaugh, who has said he hopes Obama fails in his economic policies, makes a more attractive, and convenient, target.

This weekend, a labor-liberal coalition began airing about \$100,000 in ads on national cable television

and in Washington markets in an effort to handcuff the Republicans to Limbaugh, whose provocations don't always follow party script.

"Rush Limbaugh is the leader of the Republican Party — he says jump and they say how high," said Brad Woodhouse, president of Americans United for Change, the liberal advocacy group that is sponsoring the ads with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Limbaugh has refused to back down. Speaking Saturday to a conservative convention in Washington, he said: "What is so strange about being honest and saying, 'I want Barack Obama to fail if his mission is to restructure and reform this country so that capitalism and individual liberty are not its foundation? Why would I want that to succeed?'"

The words have made some Republicans flinch. And on Sunday, Cantor seemed eager to change the subject. "Nobody — no Republican, no Democrat — wants this president to fail, nor do they want this country to fail or the economy to fail," he said on ABC's "This Week."

And Republican National Committee chairman Michael Steele, in an interview Saturday with CNN's D.L. Hughley, rejected suggestions that Limbaugh is the "de facto" leader of the party.

"I'm the de facto leader of the Republican Party," Steele asserted. "Rush Limbaugh is an entertainer. Rush Limbaugh, his whole thing is entertainment. Yes, it's incendiary. Yes, it's ugly." But no less a political pugilist than Emanuel drove the Limbaugh-Republican connection home.

"He is the voice and the intellectual force and energy behind the Republican Party," Emanuel said on CBS' "Face the Nation," bestowing backhanded praise on Limbaugh. "And he has been upfront about what he views, and hasn't stepped back from that, which is he hopes for failure."

RNC spokesman Alex Conant

dismissed the Limbaugh connections as a Democratic effort to build "straw men to attack and distract."

Republicans, meanwhile, have drawn careful distinctions between Obama and the rest of the Democratic Party.

"Republicans want to be partners with the President in finding responsible solutions to the challenges facing our nation, but thus far congressional leaders in the president's own party have stood in the way," said Rep. John Boehner, the House Republican leader, after Obama's address to a joint session of Congress last week.

Conant on Monday said Americans "are growing skeptical of the massive government spending being pushed by congressional leaders like Nancy Pelosi." No word about Obama.

Steele, the Republican chairman, also singled out Pelosi for criticism after the House approved the \$410 billion spending bill. "It's disappointing that less than 24 hours after President Barack Obama urged Congress to restore fiscal responsibility, Nancy Pelosi's House Democrats passed a spending bill laden with pork," he said. Eventually, it will become harder for Republicans to continue their hate-the-policy, like-the-policy-maker strategy. Obama's budget left little doubt that he was the Democrat driving the party's ideas. And while Republicans have flattered Obama and his call for fiscal restraint, Obama aides left no doubt he will sign the spending bill and not heed their call for a veto.

"We just need to move on," White House budget chief Peter Orszag said.

At the same time, the White House and its allies will be able to play the Limbaugh gambit only so long. After all, the talk radio master may have a big bullhorn, but it's Republicans such as Cantor and Boehner who are driving the Republican message in the Capitol hallways.

For now, though, Limbaugh and Pelosi will do. □

HIV STIGMA

Because of the stigma associated with HIV, many people are reluctant to get tested and an infected person may unknowingly continue to have unprotected sexual relationships.

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Stigma drives the infection underground and makes it more difficult to contain the spread of HIV.

Before you stigmatize or discriminate against someone with HIV, STOP! THINK ABOUT IT.

Deja new: Gay challenge reaches California court

By LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A year after the state Supreme Court entertained arguments on extending marriage to gay couples, many of the same lawyers will be back before the same seven justices this week arguing why California's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage should stand or fall.

The passage of Proposition 8 last November changed the state constitution to prohibit gay marriage and trumped the high court's decision as few months earlier to legalize it. But the ballot measure was appealed and the justices on Thursday are getting the final word on whether marriage is an institution that must accommodate two women or two men.

The debate will be framed by not only the gay and lesbian couples who see their struggle as the modern equivalent of prohibitions on interracial marriage, but the 7 million citizens who rejected that comparison in an \$83 million election.

The stakes are high — for the 18,000 couples who married while same-sex weddings were legal, for gay marriage opponents who object on religious grounds and for others who are deeply divided on the issue. And whatever the court decides is likely to have ramifications not only for millions of Californians but also for other U.S. states grappling over gay marriage. The question is whether a majority of the justices will defer to popular will or, having already declared that preventing gay people from marrying was unconstitutional, will do so again. Legal experts say it is a tough call and that the court's decision, due within 90 days, will be debated for years to come.

"It's very unusual for any kind of state court to do what the petitioners are asking the California Supreme Court to do," said William Eskridge, a Yale University constitutional law professor.

Same-sex marriage supporters are urging the court to overturn

Proposition 8 on the grounds that the measure made such a sweeping change to the state constitution that its sponsors lacked the authority to put it on the ballot without approval from the California Legislature. Citizens can petition to put constitutional amendments, but not substantial revisions, directly to voters.

In a rare departure, the state's own top lawyer, Attorney General Jerry Brown, has refused to defend the initiative and is urging the justices to invalidate it. Brown says Proposition 8 itself is unconstitutional because the Supreme Court's 4-3 decision last year recognized gays as a minority group entitled to judicial protection and established marriage as a fundamental right.

Legal experts say Proposition 8, which won 52 percent of the vote, would almost certainly stand if not for one notable fact: the marriage amendment represents the first time in California history that the constitution was changed at the ballot box to deprive a

protected minority group of a right expressly carved out by the court.

"It would be unprecedented for the court to overturn Proposition 8 only because Proposition 8 is unprecedented," said Dale Carpenter, a University of Minnesota constitutional law professor.

A broad spectrum of civil rights groups, including the National Association of Colored People (NAACP), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the National Organization for Women, have submitted friend-of-the-court briefs in the case, saying other minorities could have their rights put up for a vote if the measure is upheld.

Others, however, see just as much danger in limiting California's tradition of direct democracy.

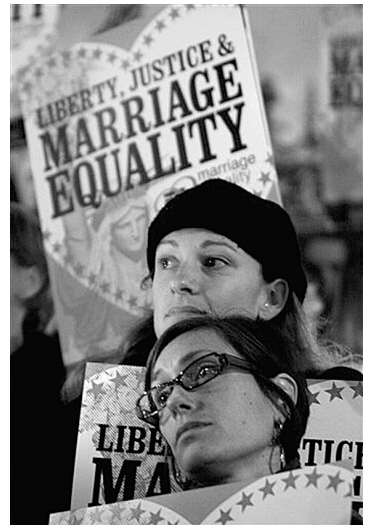
Lynn Wardle, a Brigham Young University professor who submitted brief in support of Proposition 8, said, "Do you defer to the political establishment, which in this case supports same-

sex marriage and wants Prop. 8 undone, or to California's history of being probably the most populist state in America?"

In the 99 years since California has allowed constitutional changes by citizen initiative, the Supreme Court has tossed out only a handful of voter-approved measures because they were significant revisions that needed prior legislative approval.

On Thursday, the court also will hear arguments on what should happen to the estimated 18,000 same-sex marriages that were sanctioned in the state before Election Day, if the measure is upheld.

The sponsors of Proposition 8 argue the measure's language makes it clear the state can no longer recognize those marriages. The attorney general and lawyers for the couples and local governments say the initiative was not explicit enough to undo the unions. Legal observers, even some gay marriage opponents, say they think the court may be reluctant to void existing marriages.



In this Nov. 5, 2008 file photo, Erin Carder, front, and Kerri McCoy participate in a candlelight vigil protesting the passage of Proposition 8 in San Francisco. The weight of history will be present this week when California's highest court considers whether to strike down the constitutional ban on same sex marriages voters approved in November.

Associated Press

"There is no question, for a period of time, there was same-sex marriage in California, albeit a very short period of time," said James Sweeney, a constitutional lawyer who represents the California Catholic Conference. □

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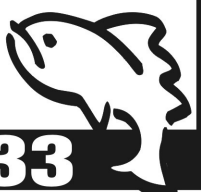
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Russian foreign minister: US should talk to Iran



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov answers to a question during his and Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic's press conference in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. Lavrov and Jeremic signed an agreement on visa-free one-month travel on Friday.

Associated Press

By **STEVE GUTTERMAN** **Associated Press Writer**
MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's foreign minister on Monday urged the United States to talk to Iran and staked out a tough position before talks expected this year on a new nuclear arms

control treaty, Russian news agencies reported.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is scheduled to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in Geneva on Friday in the highest-level meeting between the two nations since President Barack Obama took office.

The United States has long sought more help from Russia in nudging its close partner Iran into compliance with international demands to halt nuclear activities.

The U.S. and other Western nations say those activities are aimed at developing nuclear weapons.

But Lavrov suggested is the United States that should step up efforts — led by what Russia calls the 'sextet' of Britain,

France, Russia, China, the U.S. and Germany — to resolve the standoff over Iran's nuclear program.

"We very much want the American side not just to join with the sextet on paper, but to join talks with Iran that the sextet is proposing," ITAR-Tass quoted Lavrov as saying on a flight from Egypt to Spain, where President Dmitry Medvedev wraps up a state visit Tuesday.

Lavrov also said Russia would like to see the United States and Iran restore diplomatic relations.

"This would be an important element in stabilizing the situation in the region," he was quoted as saying.

Russia and the U.S. have argued for years over Iran's nuclear

program. Russia, a permanent U.N. Security Council member, has signed off on Western-initiated sanctions punishing Iran for nuclear activity, but only after watering them down with China's help.

Russia has eased U.S. concerns about the nearly finished nuclear power plant it is building in Iran by obliging Iran to return all spent fuel from the reactor. But the project itself is symbolic of the different views of Iran's nuclear program. Russian officials have repeatedly said there is no evidence Iran is seeking nuclear weapons, while persistent U.S. concerns were on display Sunday when Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Iran already has enough fissile material for one. □

ASSASSINATE

Continued from Page B1

The capital, Bissau, was calm but tense despite the pre-dawn gunfight at the palace, which erupted hours after armed forces chief of staff Gen. Batiste Tagme na Waie — a longtime rival of the president — was killed by a bomb blast at his headquarters.

The former Portuguese colony has suffered multiple coups and attempted coups since 1980, when Vieira himself first took power in one. The United Nations says the impoverished nation on the Atlantic coast of Africa has recently become a key transit point for cocaine smuggled from Latin America to Europe.

Following an emergency Cabinet meeting on Monday, military spokesman Zamora Induta said top military brass told government officials "this was not a coup d'etat."

"We reaffirmed our intention to respect the democratically elected power and the constitution of the republic," Induta said.

"The people who killed President Vieira have not been arrested, but we are pursuing them. They are an isolated group. The situation is under control."

The constitution calls for parliament chief Raimundo Pereira to succeed the president in the event of his death.

Prime Minister Carlos Gomes



In this image made from television, Zamora Induta, a Military forces spokesman, makes a statement in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, Monday, March 2, 2009. Renegade soldiers assassinated the president of Guinea-Bissau in his palace Monday, hours after a bomb blast killed his rival, but the military insisted no coup was taking place in the West African nation.

Associated Press

Jr. said the fact that the military did not go through with a coup deserves praise. "The military showed their patriotism by not seizing power," he said, adding that both Vieira and Waie will receive state funerals in the coming days.

Vieira had ruled Guinea-Bissau for 23 of the past 29 years. He came to power in the 1980 coup, but was forced out 19 years later at the onset of the country's civil war. He later returned from exile in Portugal to run in the country's 2005 election and won the vote.

The armed forces' statement dismissed claims that the military killed Vieira in retaliation for Waie's assassination late Sunday. The two men were considered

staunch political and ethnic rivals and both had survived recent assassination attempts. Vieira, from the minority Papel ethnic group, once blamed majority ethnic Balanta officers for attempting a coup against him, condemning several to death and others to long prison sentences.

Among them was Waie, who in the late 1980s was dropped off on a deserted island off the coast of Guinea-Bissau, according to Waie's chief of staff, Lt. Col. Bwam Namtcho. Waie was left there for years before he was allowed to return and officially pardoned by Vieira.

Namtcho said the bomb that killed Waie had been hidden underneath the staircase leading to his office. □

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PG-13	HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU	daily: 6:45 matinee: 1:10	9:20 late show: 11:55	
PG	THE PINK PANTHER 2	daily: 4:05 matinee: 12:00	6:20 2:05	8:20 late show: 10:20 12:25
R	UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS	daily: 3:50 matinee: 11:55	5:50 1:50	7:55 late show: 10:00 12:00
PG	HOTEL FOR DOGS	daily: 4:40 matinee: 12:20	4:40 2:25	late show:
PG	PAUL BLART: MALL COP	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:10	6:20 2:15	8:20 late show: 10:15 12:15

AT PASEO HERENCIA				
PG-13	THE UNBORN	daily: 4:05 matinee: 12:00	6:00 2:00	8:05 late show: 10:05 12:05
R	THE INTERNATIONAL	daily: 4:50 matinee: 11:55	7:20 2:25	7:20 late show: 9:50 12:15
PG-13	TAKEN	daily: 4:10 matinee: 12:05	6:20 2:10	8:20 late show: 10:20 12:20
R	FRIDAY THE 13TH	daily: 7:55 matinee: 12:10		10:00 late show: 12:10
PG	HOTEL FOR DOGS	daily: 5:40 matinee: 1:25	3:35	late show:
PG-13	THE PINK PANTHER 2	daily: 3:40 matinee: 1:40	5:50 1:40	7:50 late show: 9:55 12:00
PG	PAUL BLART: MALL COP	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:10	6:10 2:15	8:10 late show: 10:15 12:25

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Former Iranian president Rafsanjani visits Iraq

By HAMID AHMED

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — One of Iran's most powerful political and religious figures — former President Hashemi Rafsanjani — promised Monday to assist in Iraq's reconstruction after nearly six years of war that has involved Shiite militias with suspected links to Tehran. "We hope the era of conflict and hardships for Iraq is coming to an end," Rafsanjani told reporters in his first visit to Iraq since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran has close ties with Iraq's Shiite-led government and seeks to expand its commercial links as Iraq looks ahead to projects to rebuild roads and core services such as electrical networks and sewers.

Rafsanjani's visit to Iraq comes three days after President Barack Obama announced that the U.S. military would end its combat mission in Iraq in August 2010 but leave up to 50,000 soldiers in support roles until the end of 2011.

Iran claims that Washington may seek to exert its influence over Iraq even after its troops are gone to maintain pressure on Iran's doorstep. Rafsanjani's visit also will be closely watched for any signals that Tehran may be willing to

hold talks with Washington.

U.S. officials have accused Iran of aiding Shiite militia gangs that have attacked U.S. forces. Tehran has denied the charges.

Also Monday, an Iraqi judge handed down death sentences to three former officials in Saddam Hussein's regime for slayings and abuses against Shiites a decade ago. The defendants included Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali," for ordering poison gas attacks in the 1980s. This was his third death sentence for brutalities during Saddam's rule.

Three other former Saddam officials received life sentences while two were acquitted, including former Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. But Aziz faces other charges and remained in custody.

Rafsanjani, an influential Shiite ayatollah, was given a red carpet welcome by Iraqi President Jalal Talabani at Baghdad's airport Monday.

Talabani said Iraqi authorities could benefit from Rafsanjani's "long experience" as a leader who helped rebuild Iran after its war with Iraq.

Under Saddam, Iraq fought a brutal war with Iran from 1980-88 that left more than 1 million dead. The current

Shiite-led government in Baghdad has good relations with Iran — a predominantly Shiite Muslim country — but Sunnis and others have questioned whether Tehran wields too much influence over some Shiite Iraqi politicians.

Rafsanjani was president from 1989-97 but was defeated in a presidential comeback bid in 2005 by hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who is running for re-election in June. Rafsanjani is not expected to join the race.

The former president is conservative but also seen as pragmatic, often willing to cut deals with other factions. He leads a panel of clerics empowered to monitor Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and eventually choose his successor. But he also carries wider clout as an elder statesman and through his family's vast business empire. Last month, Rafsanjani told former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who was visiting Iran, that Tehran was willing to hold talks with the United States on its nuclear program if both sides are treated as equals.

Washington and its allies worry that Iran will use its uranium enrichment program to make weapons-grade material. Iran



Former Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, right, sit during a press conference in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, March 2, 2009. Rafsanjani is in Baghdad to begin talks with political and religious leaders.

Associated Press

says it only seeks a peaceful nuclear program for electricity production.

The other two former Saddam officials sentenced to death Monday were Mahmoud Faizi al-Hazaa, a former intelligence official, and Aziz Saleh al-Numan, who served as a top Baath Party official in the Baghdad region.

The three were sentenced for a 1999 crackdown that sought to quell a Shiite backlash to the slaying of Grand Ayatollah Mohammed al-Sadr. His supporters blame the killing on Saddam's agents.

Also Monday, two bombs exploded in Shiite areas, killing at least four people in separate attacks in Diyala province, an area north of Baghdad that remains an insurgent hotbed despite security gains.

The first attack was a roadside

bomb targeting an Iraqi army patrol in Balad Ruz, killing two soldiers and wounding three, according to officials at the regional security headquarters.

A bicycle bomb left near a Shiite mosque later exploded in Khalis, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Baghdad, killing at least three worshippers and wounding more than 20, police said.

An American soldier died Monday of wounds from combat north of Baghdad, the military said.

The statement did not provide details about the type of injuries or the attack.

The death raises to at least 4,254 members of the U.S. military who have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. □

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Three times a week Bugaloe is the stage for live concerts. On Tuesday from 5-8pm the band JOYRIDE will celebrate sunset with hot Latin tunes. Fridays is also a big hit as LOTUS will ease out the week from 5-8pm with the greatest ballads from the 80's and 90's. MARISELA



& Aquarius Band is already for many years the happening on Sundays. From 6-9.30pm they will for sure put you on party course. Bugaloe is the hottest place to be cool and the coolest place to be hot!

Salsa Workshop
Bugaloe hosts a weekly FREE Salsa & Merengue Workshop! Wednesdays from 7.30-8.30pm Reggie and Sabine from Aruba-Salsa will show you the ins and outs of Latin dancing. Their motto: Everybody can dance! From 7-10pm a salsa live band will invite you on the dance floor or if you prefer, you can watch your friends' dance moves from the bar. Fun guaranteed!

For more information, call Bugaloe at (297) 586 2233.



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A new tradition is born! The first Bugaloe Open is scheduled for Saturday April 25th, 2009. Golfers from Aruba and around the world will participate in this two players scramble golf tournament with motto: Fun, friends... and golf! In a relaxed ambience and organized in every detail, the Bugaloe Open will welcome any golfer, no matter what handicap one has. You can already sign up at the Pro Shop of Tierra del Sol, where the event will take place on its 18 holes golf course. The tournament will

be completed with a splashing party at Bugaloe Beach Bar and with a delicious dinner buffet.

For more information, call Tierra del Sol at (297) 586 0978 or send an email to:

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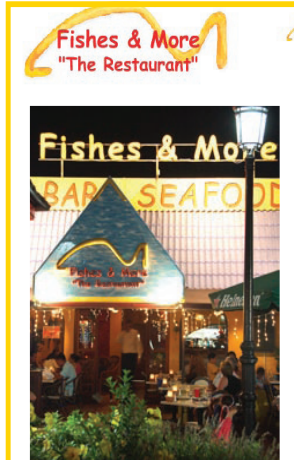


PALM BEACH - Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. PALM BEACH - Fishes and More Restaurant opened up in the Arawak Gardens just 3 and a half years ago and has been a great success since day one. Word on the street is that once you eat at Fishes and More, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm for everyone to enjoy. The ambience at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned

dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the **daily fresh catches**, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried, pan-fried or the chef's choice. **Every Wednesday, seafood specials are prepared** depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These



specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. Fishes and More is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet mignon, rib eye, wienerschnitzel, veal parmesan, and pasta specialties. **Great Seafood!!!** Fun and relaxed atmosphere. Right across from the high rise hotels. It is worth the short walk to a wonderful dinner ☐



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Casa Tua's delicacies now found in Oranjestad

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PALM BEACH - The famous Casa Tua restaurant in Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens now has a twin Casa Tua in Downtown Oranjestad upstairs in the Aventura Mall overlooking the Daniel Leo Plaza. This restaurant presents a fresh approach to dining in Aruba. The name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian and you are welcome tonight to delight in the savory hot and cold tapas. Casa Tua boasts the unique opportunity to sample the "Pata Negra" which is "Jamon Iberico", considered the absolute

highest quality ham. The flavor and texture of the ham is the only one of its kind and the experience of the chef carving your personal slice is irreplaceable. The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories. The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing

salads, homemade soups starting at \$6 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$14. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Victor Nataf and his sons Daveed and Gregory are always there to welcome you with the rest of



their staff. Gregory spends most of his time in the kitchen as the head chef repeating the recipes and perfect preparations passed to him from his uncle and three siblings who are renowned for their Mediterranean flair throughout France. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud. The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

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Or
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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Dodgers: Ramirez talks must now start from scratch

PHOENIX (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers have pulled their \$45 million, two-year offer to Manny Ramirez, and owner Frank McCourt said Sunday that negotiations will have to start again from scratch.

The Dodgers announced last week that the Dominican slugger had declined the team's latest offer, a \$25 million, one-year contract with a \$20 million player option for 2010. McCourt said no talks with Ramirez's representatives were scheduled for Sunday.

"We're in what I call a transition phase," McCourt said before the Dodgers lost 3-2 to the Chicago White Sox in their first game at their new spring training facility at Camelback Ranch. "We had an almost four-month negotiation which terminated on Thursday. Now we're in a quiet period. At some point we'll pick up negotiations, but with a fresh start."

The issue separating the two sides appears to be how much the contract is worth in present-day dollars.

General manager Ned Colletti and the Dodgers wanted to defer payment of \$10 million until 2011, \$10 million more to 2012 and \$5 million to 2013.

Ramirez's agent, Scott Boras, said Sunday in an e-mail to reporters that his most recent offer Saturday was for two years with "some deferred compensation" for a "net present value" of \$43.5 million, a compromise that Ramirez requested.

"We have continued to work with Ned and the Dodgers to do away with the artificial barriers and attempt (to) get a deal completed," Boras said. "There is no issue with deferral money being part of any contract; just want to make sure the value is stated accurately and appropriately."

According to Boras, the team's last offer had a net present value of \$42 million. Boras' previous proposal was for \$45 million without



In this Sept. 13, 2008 file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Manny Ramirez warms up before facing the Colorado Rockies in a baseball game in Denver. Ramirez reportedly rejected their second offer from the Dodgers, which would have made him baseball's second-highest paid player behind New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, in hopes of snagging a longer deal.

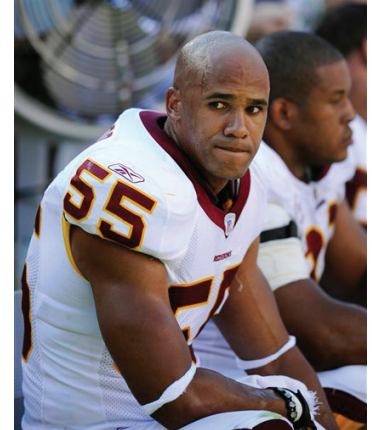
Associated Press

any deferred money. So he said he met the Dodgers at the midpoint of those offers because that's what Ramirez directed him to do.

"However, we have yet to hear from them on our last three offers," Boras said.

Also in the e-mail was a quote from Ramirez saying that he's been included throughout the process.

"I would not allow negotiations to take place without being involved and talk to Scott nearly every day," Ramirez was quoted as saying. "I have given Scott offers that he has given to the Dodgers and he has given me all offers from the team." □



In this Oct. 12, 2008, file photo, Washington Redskins linebacker Jason Taylor sits on the bench during an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams in Landover, Md. The Redskins have released Taylor, one year after signing the former NFL defensive player of the year.

Associated Press

Workout refusal leads Redskins to cut DE Taylor

By JOSEPH WHITE
AP Sports Writer Joseph White

WASHINGTON — Jason Taylor will have plenty of time to dance on TV this year. The former NFL defensive player of the year's disappointing turn in the nation's capital came to an end Monday when he was cut by the Washington Redskins for refusing to commit to the team's offseason workout program.

The Redskins wanted to add a workout clause to Taylor's hefty contract, but the 34-year-old defensive end declined. The clause would have required Taylor to take part in 25 days of offseason workouts.

The flap is reminiscent of last year, when Taylor clashed with the Miami Dolphins for competing in "Dancing With the Stars" rather than working out with the team in the offseason. Taylor finished second to Kristi Yamaguchi on the reality television show.

The six-time Pro Bowl end had been considered a possible salary cap cut in Washington because of the value of his contract, which would have paid him a salary of about \$8.5 million this season. □

Hatton predicts change of style against Pacquiao



Boxers Ricky Hatton, left, of England, and IBO World Junior Welterweight Champion Manny Pacquiao, of Philippines, right, pose for photographers at the Imperial War Museum in London, prior to a news conference, Monday, March 2, 2009. Hatton and Pacquiao will fight in Las Vegas, USA, on Saturday, May, 2, 2009.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ricky Hatton admits his old bulldozing style of fighting won't be good enough to beat Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas on May 2 and he will rely instead on handspeed and punching power.

A former world light-welterweight champion who has never lost at 140 pounds, Hatton is taking on a fighter who moved up two weight divisions to easily beat Oscar De La Hoya at 147 pounds in December.

Hatton says that means he will have to produce a repeat of the performance he produced to stop Paul Malignaggi in 11 rounds in November, the British fighter's first fight since losing for the only time to Floyd Mayweather Jr.

A powerful body puncher, Hatton (45-1) used that style to stop Kostya Tszyu for the IBF title in June 2005. But he will need more to beat a fast fighter who is considered the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world.

"Kostya was a great punching powerhouse but I bulldozed him into submission," Hatton said on Monday. "But in my last fight against Malignaggi, who is a speed merchant, I ended up out-boxing him and out-speeding him. In the end I beat him up."

"The Ricky Hatton of old would have put his head down and steamed in at 100 mph without a lot of thought on how to do it. I've no doubt Manny's speed will cause me problems but they said that about Malignaggi."

Although the fight is in Las Vegas, Hatton and Pacquiao (48-3-2) were at London's Imperial War Museum to help sell the contest to British fight fans although Hatton is expected to have several thousand fans at the MGM Grand Garden.

Despite Hatton's insistence he will fight a different way than he used to, Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, said it wouldn't take him long to go back to his old ways.

"It will be a great fight in the first half but Manny will get to him in the later rounds and will knock him out at some point," Roach said. "Ricky is very resilient but his come-forward nature will walk him into some shots and that will get him out of there. He's tailor made for us. I don't think you can change Ricky Hatton at this point in his career. Once he gets hit, he'll lose composure and revert to what he does best and that's fight." □

Comfortable on the course, Ogilvy getting his due

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) — Even when the desert sun pushed temperatures into the 90s, Geoff Ogilvy was as cool as can be.

It wasn't always that way.

When he wasn't getting the results he expected his first four years on the PGA Tour, no one was as critical of his game than Ogilvy. It wasn't so much anger — few players get more angry than Tiger Woods — as the inability to keep his emotions from dragging him down. That's what stood out during his victory in the Accenture Match Play Championship.

Ogilvy never flinched, even when he was on the verge of losing in the second round. Whether he was trying to retrieve his ball from a cholla cactus or watching his tee shot on the 343-yard 15th hole stop 4 feet from the cup, he looked the same.

"I think she changed him," said his wife, Juli, from the patio outside the Dove Mountain clubhouse as Ogilvy mowed down two opponents on Saturday to reach the championship match for the third time in four years.

She was referring to Phoebe, their 2-year-old daughter, who lifted her head from a bowl of vanilla ice cream that covered her face. Kicking his feet from a high chair next to her was Jasper, who just turned 1.

Judy Rankin noticed the same thing.

The Hall of Famer and broadcaster is related to Ogilvy through marriage — her son's wife and Ogilvy's wife are sisters. They have spent Christmas dinner together in Lubbock, Texas, and they all went to a bowl game in Arizona three years ago when Texas Tech rallied to beat Minnesota. "He's very committed to his family, more than just his wife and the kids," Rankin said. "He's able to work things out on his terms. He seems to be happy in this role he has grown into. And I think that's what you see on the golf course. He's a very laid-back guy, the most comfortable person to be with."

Indeed, Ogilvy is comfortable in just about any situation.

A month before he won the 2006 U.S. Open, he was invited to a black-tie dinner at the White

House and wound up at a table with former President George W. Bush and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. At Kapalua this year, he looked equally content in blue jeans and flip-flops during a night out with his wife, Adam Scott and actress Kate Hudson.

Few players are more articulate, whether it's discussing history or golf course design. Ogilvy has always been that way.

The trick was learning to like himself on the golf course.

"There was no real moment of clarity or epiphany or whatever," Ogilvy said. "You want to say it was a very gradual process from being generally not very nice to myself on the golf course to being quite nice to myself on the golf course. Being negative on a golf course is a habit. You hit a shot and complain about it, and that's just the way you play golf. "It takes a while to change that, and it had been coming for a while before La Costa."

La Costa is where Ogilvy first won the Accenture Match Play Championship in 2006, about four months before he captured the U.S. Open at Winged Foot with a birdie-par finish, a major better known even now for Phil Mickelson's double bogey on the 18th hole.

Now, however, Ogilvy is starting to get his due.

He became the first player this year with multiple PGA Tour victories, having gone wire-to-wire to win at Kapalua. He now has won three times in his last seven starts, dating to the Australian PGA Championship in December.

With his victory Sunday, the 31-year-old Aussie moved to No. 4 in the world.

"I think when Geoff plays the golf he played today, you have to put him in that category," Paul Casey said Sunday after falling behind on the opening hole and never catching up in a 4-and-3 match. "Geoff is a quiet guy. Maybe that's why he doesn't get the attention he deserves or the recognition he deserves. But he's a phenomenal golfer. How many guys have won two World events?"

Ogilvy now has three World Golf Championships — twice in Match Play, and last year in the CA Championship at Doral, where he ended Woods' winning streak at six PGA Tour events. He finished one shot ahead of Vijay Singh, Jim

Furyk and Retief Goosen, with Woods another shot behind. That's good company to keep, even better to beat.

Casey and Ogilvy have lived in Scottsdale for years, are members of the same club and even played a practice round at Dove Mountain two weeks before the Accenture Match Play Championship, just to get a look at the new course.

They know each other's game, but they have never competed against each other with such high stakes as Sunday.

"What's tough about playing Geoff is that he doesn't change," Casey said. "His demeanor doesn't waver, which is a huge attribute, especially in match play. He walks the same pace, whether he's playing well or poorly. He manages himself very, very well."

Ogilvy drove home to Scottsdale for another week at home with the kids before beginning his road to the Masters — a title defense at Doral, then likely a tune-up in Tampa at the Transitions Championship. □



Geoff Ogilvy shows a big smile after chipping in on the 11th hole to save his par during his finals match against Paul Casey at the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship Sunday, March 1, 2009, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

Barry Bonds case delayed well into summer

By PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The perjury trial of Barry Bonds has been delayed at least through July and likely beyond, as an appeal filed by prosecutors over key evidence for the trial winds through the legal system.

Federal court officials on Monday set a schedule for prosecutors and Bonds' lawyers to submit legal written arguments to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals debating the admissibility of three positive drug tests, so-called doping calendars and other evidence allegedly linking Bonds to steroids use.

Jury selection for Bonds' trial had been scheduled to start Monday, but was delayed last week after federal prosecutors announced they would appeal U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston's ruling barring them from showing that evidence to a jury.

Bonds has pleaded not guilty to lying to a grand jury in 2003



Barry Bonds, left, arrives to enter a plea at the Federal building in San Francisco, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009. Bonds' trial for perjury and obstruction of justice charges begins next month.

Associated Press

when he testified that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. The home run king faces 10 counts of making false statements to a grand jury and one count of obstruction of justice.

Prosecutors are to file their opening brief on June 1, the defense's response is due July 1 and prosecutors can submit

a rebuttal by July 15. The appeals court could then decide the issue solely on the written materials or put the item on its next available court calendar for oral arguments.

The deadlines set could be extended by either side with requests for more time to complete their written arguments. □

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Search narrows for NFL players off Fla. Gulf Coast



In this photo released by the U.S. Coast Guard, shows former University of South Florida football player Nick Schuyler clinging to the engine of an overturned boat in the Gulf of Mexico, as the U.S. Coast Guard approaches, Monday March 2, 2009. Schuyler, Marquis Cooper, William Buckley and Corey Smith left Clearwater, Fla., on a fishing trip Saturday morning and did not return. The other three remain missing. Schuyler told rescuers that the 21-foot boat was anchored when it flipped Saturday evening in rough seas and that the others got separated from the boat, Capt. Timothy M. Close said. Schuyler, who was wearing a life vest, had been clinging to the boat since then.

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**
and **MITCH STACY**

Associated Press Writer
TAMPA, Fla. — Coast Guard searchers on Monday narrowed the search area for two NFL players and a third man missing since a weekend fishing trip off the Florida Gulf Coast after crews rescued a fourth man clinging to their capsized boat. Survivor Nick Schuyler, a former University of South Florida player, told rescuers that the boat the four friends were aboard was anchored when it flipped Saturday evening in rough seas, said Coast Guard Capt. Timothy M. Close. Since then, Schuyler, who was wearing a life vest, had been hanging onto the boat found by a Coast Guard cutter 35 miles off Clearwater. Schuyler said the other three men got separated from the boat. The 21-footer belongs to Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, who, along with free-agent defensive lineman Corey Smith and former South Florida player William Bleakley, remained missing. Schuyler was conscious but appeared weak as he was being taken off a helicopter at Tampa General Hospital and placed on a stretcher. His father said his son was in serious but stable condition and that he “looks OK.” “He’s got some cuts and bruises.

Associated Press
He’s dehydrated,” said Stuart Schuyler. Schuyler’s mother, Marsha Schuyler, said her son told her that he survived by thinking about how he didn’t want her to go to his funeral. The family’s joy at him being found alive was tempered by the search for his friends. “We still have three men missing, and we’re not going to talk too much until we find these guys,” said his father, Stuart Schuyler. “We’re all praying for them. These guys are all very close friends.” Coast Guard photos showed Schuyler wearing a yellow jacket and orange life vest and sitting on the hull of the capsized boat as a rescue cutter approached. A helicopter lowered a basket to haul him aboard. The search area is now “substantially smaller,” based on where they found the boat and Schuyler, Close said. Searchers had previously covered 16,000 square miles of ocean. Smith’s family planned to drive to Florida from Richmond, Va., Tuesday, after the snowy weather in the East made getting a flight impossible, said Yolanda Newbill, one of Smith’s sisters. She said they have been in contact with the Coast Guard every few hours since the search began. “We have never lost hope,” Newbill said. “We have total faith that (he) will be coming

home.” Ray Sanchez of Tampa, a cousin of Cooper, said he was told the men were together “for a good period of time” after the boat flipped. He said the family was confident the Coast Guard would find them. “My cousin’s a powerful swimmer,” he said. The water temperature in the area was 68 degrees. After 18 hours in 64-degree water, hypothermia will set in, said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class James Harless. How long someone can survive depends on how big the person is, he said. Cooper is 6-foot-3, 230 pounds, and Smith, 6-foot-2, 250 pounds. The four friends left Clearwater Pass early Saturday in calm weather, but heavy winds picked up through the day and the seas got heavy, with waves of 7 feet and higher, peaking at 15 feet on Sunday. A relative alerted the Coast Guard early Sunday after the men did not return as expected. The Coast Guard said it did not receive a distress signal. The men were aboard an Everglades-manufactured boat, which is built with compressed foam encased in Fiberglas, making it difficult to sink. The weather had improved, with waves subsiding to 6 to 8 feet, National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Barron said. However, Bob Zales, president of National Association of Charter Boat Operators, said waves that high can capsize a boat the size of Cooper’s. “A boat that size, personally, I wouldn’t get out any farther than 20 or 30 miles offshore,” Zales said. “But I see people all the time 40, 50 miles offshore.” Cooper and Smith, who were teammates with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 2004, have been on fishing trips before, according to Ron Del Duca, Smith’s agent. The 29-year-old Smith of Richmond, had 30 tackles, including three sacks, and an interception in 12 games last season for the Detroit Lions. He also played for the San Francisco 49ers and was a standout at North Carolina State. □

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Continúa vaivén en las monedas de América Latina

Situación económica en México preocupa

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - Las monedas de América Latina extenderían nuevamente su racha volátil a esta semana, con los inversionistas en “modo de espera” y optando por otros destinos, lo que traería más dolores de cabeza sobre todo al atribulado peso mexicano.

La región en general estará a la espera de noticias que puedan motivar a los inversionistas, en una semana no tan cargada de indicadores económicos en Estados Unidos.

“Seguimos detectando muy poca convicción entre los inversionistas sobre una tendencia de corto plazo y están más cómodos en ‘modo de espera’ hasta que se disipen los riesgos”, dijo la firma RBC Capital Markets en un reporte.

A los analistas les llama la atención el caso del peso mexicano, que sigue perdiendo valor contra el dólar pese a que el banco central ha gastado una fortuna desde hace casi seis meses en sus intentos por inyectar liquidez al mercado.

Pero los participantes parecen ignorar las intenciones del banco central y la moneda tocó el viernes un mínimo histórico, a 15,0900/15,0990 por dólar. “México es el que tiene más dificultades”, dijo Pedro Tuesta, analista de la firma 4Cast en Washington. “La percepción del mercado es que no hay mucho deseo de intervenir”, agregó.

Pese a que el Banco de México (central) ha vendido grandes cantidades de dólares en el mercado cambiario desde octubre, el

peso sigue perdiendo valor y los analistas creen que la entidad monetaria podría ser más agresiva, dado que tiene en las arcas alrededor de 80.000 millones de dólares en reservas.

El escepticismo del mercado aumentó cuando la semana pasada el subgobernador del banco central, Guillermo Güemez, dijo que a fin de año las reservas internacionales se ubicarían en los mismos niveles en los que están actualmente.

México mantiene desde 1994 un régimen de libre flotación pero la severa depreciación de la moneda orilló al banco central a utilizar recursos que no usaba desde hace una década, como la intervención directa en el mercado.

“Creo que Banco de México va a seguir interviniendo”, dijo Ricardo Aguilar, del grupo financiero Invex. “Pero con la volatilidad que podemos ver en la próxima semana yo sí esperaría ver al tipo de cambio acercándose hacia 15,20”, agregó.

TRANQUILIDAD EN RESTO DE A.LATINA

A diferencia de México, el resto de la región recibiría un impacto menor de la volatilidad. El real de Brasil vería cambios mínimos en los niveles de 2,371 por divisa, en tanto que el peso de Colombia oscilaría entre los 2.545/2.585, después de que el banco central recortara la tasa de interés en 100 puntos base.

En Chile, los analistas no esperan grandes variaciones en el peso, ayudado por su sólida economía.



Foto de archivo de un hombre mientras camina cerca de una oficina de cambio monetario en Ciudad de México, 8 oct 2008. Las monedas de América Latina extenderían nuevamente su racha volátil a esta semana, con los inversionistas en ‘modo de espera’ y optando por otros destinos, lo que traería más dolores de cabeza sobre todo al atribulado peso mexicano. REUTERS/Daniel Aguilar (MEXICO)

“Chile está en una mejor posición que el resto de los mercados”, dijo Tuesta.

En lo que va del 2009, el peso chileno acumula una apreciación de un 7,5 por ciento frente al dólar, a 596,30/596,80 unidades.

Operadores dijeron que la atención se mantendrá en los mercados externos pero también en datos locales como la inflación en febrero y la actividad económica en enero, que serán publicados el jueves.

En Argentina, los operadores esperan que se mantengan a ritmo lento las intervenciones del banco central. “El Banco Central parece cómodo con subastas lentas que no parezcan tales”, dijo la consultora Capital Markets

Argentina.

El peso en el circuito interbancario, donde opera el Banco Central con compras

o ventas de dólares de sus reservas, cerró el viernes con una baja del 0,21 por ciento a 3,565/3,5675 por dólar. □

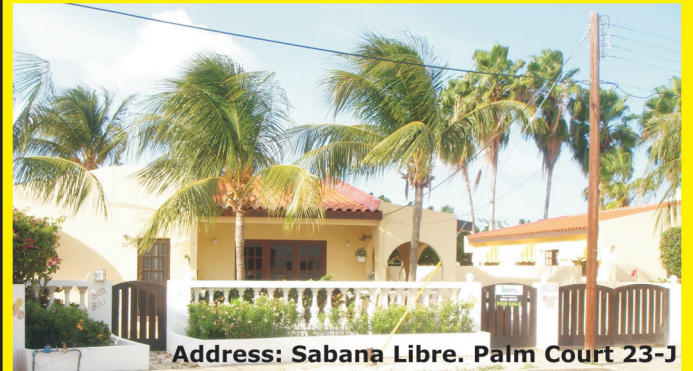
Chile pide información a Perú por río limítrofe

SANTIAGO DE CHILE (AP) - El gobierno chileno pidió información al Perú por el proyecto de una empresa de ese país de usar aguas de un río que ingresa a territorio chileno y se convierte en afluente del río chileno Lluta, según confirmó la directora de Fronteras y Límites de la Cancillería, María Teresa Infante. “Hemos pedido a Perú que nos informe las características del proyecto y sus alcances en relación al río Azufre”, dijo Infante en

declaraciones que divulga el lunes la prensa. Según han expresado autoridades y dirigentes de la zona de Arica, existe inquietud por las versiones de que la empresa peruana Minsur realiza excavaciones y pozos para extraer agua del río Azufre para la explotación de un yacimiento de oro y plata. El río Azufre se interna en territorio chileno y se convierte en afluente del Lluta, que riega una zona altiplánica al interior de Arica. □



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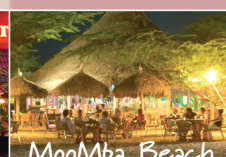
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